

3500.015887.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YASUO FUKUDA) Examiner: Colin M. Larose
Application No.: 09/977,318) Group Art Unit: 2623
Filed: October 16, 2001)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,)
APPARATUS THEREFOR AND)
STORING MEDIUM) January 4, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The cited references were called to Applicant's attention in a Japanese Office Action dated November 16, 2004. A copy of the Office Action is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 4, 2004
(Date of Deposit)

Ronald A. Clayton (Reg. No. 26, 718)
Name of Attorney for Applicant

Signature

January 4, 2004
Date of Signature

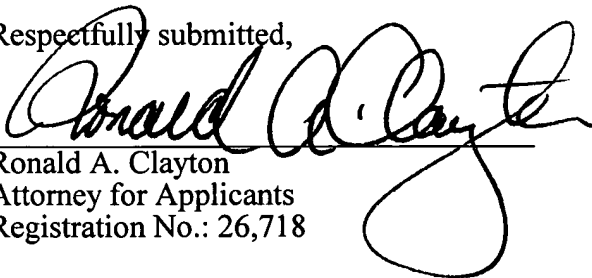
The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents is provided in the English abstracts attached to those documents. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2002-133414 corresponds to U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/071609A1, the present application.

Each item of information in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

This application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (above). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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